

# **City of Newton, Massachusetts**

## **Transportation Division**

### **Mission & Responsibilities**

#### **Mission**

The mission of the Transportation Division is to provide and maintain a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure within the City right-of-way for use by motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

#### **Objective**

The City of Newton is comprised of thirteen “villages”, each with their own distinct character and community; supports several primary and secondary schools located throughout the City and is home to several higher education institutions including Boston College, Mount Ida College and LaSell College; borders several key communities including Boston, Brighton, Brookline, Needham, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston and West Roxbury; has several major routes running through it including the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Commonwealth Avenue (Route 30), Washington Street (Route 16); Brookline Avenue (Route 9), Beacon Street, Needham Street and Interstate I-95 (Route 128); and the City is well served by three modes of mass transit operated and maintained by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) which include light rail (T), commuter rail and bus service. In order to maintain the historic, cultural, ethnic and economic vitality of our community, the City believes it is essential to provide safe routes and connections between the villages and the neighboring cities and towns through a multi-modal transportation approach. As a result, the City has adopted a complete streets policy and is committed to initiating, promoting and developing regional transportation systems including the recently developed Bicycle Network Plan, bicycle corral program and a future bicycle sharing program.

#### **Overall Responsibilities**

The Transportation Division is responsible for the design, operation, cost controls and maintenance of the Cities assets including signalized and non-signalized intersections; bicycle facilities including bike lanes, shared use and off-road facilities; traffic signs; pavement markings; street lights; and parking including stalls, municipal lots, meters and pay stations. The Transportation Division is also responsible for the coordination, layout and use of temporary traffic control devices for construction operations, special events, and emergencies, revenue collection of parking meters and multi-space pay stations.

#### **Traffic Signals**

The Transportation Division is responsible for the planning, development, design, operation and maintenance of both signalized and non-signalized intersections, pedestrian activated signals, flashing beacons and warning devices throughout the City that ensures safe, efficient and convenient use of City streets by the traveling public.

Additional responsibilities include performing, scheduling and reviewing traffic studies, speed studies, vehicle and pedestrian volume counts; serving on the Traffic Council; serving on the Bicycle Advisory Committee; performing traffic analyses; preparing designs of both signalized and non-signalized intersection designs; participating in traffic peer reviews; and developing and maintaining the city-wide signalized loop system. The Transportation Division follows industry standards established by the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE), the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM), the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) manual "Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities", latest edition; and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO).

## **Operations**

The Transportation Division is responsible for the manufacture, installation, reset and repair of existing signs and posts as directed by the Traffic Council and Public Safety & Transportation Committee, and according to the City Ordinance and Traffic Parking Regulations (TPR). In addition, the division responds to requests from other City departments and the general public for temporary closures, traffic management and parking restrictions related to construction projects, neighborhood block parties, special events including road races and sporting events, and emergencies (i.e. general, storms, etc.).

## **Parking**

The Transportation Division is responsible for the maintenance of and management of the City parking program including on-street parking, municipal parking lots, electronic multi-space pay stations, coin operated parking meters, electronic parking meters and revenue collection. In addition, the division responds to revised and new parking restrictions as directed by the Traffic Council and Public Safety & Transportation Committee, and according to the City Ordinance and Traffic Parking Regulations (TPR). At this time, the Traffic Bureau is responsible for parking enforcement and appeals.

## **Street Lighting**

The Transportation Division is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the City lighting system which includes high pressure sodium (i.e. cobra head) type lights supported on either precast concrete poles or wood utility poles; decorative/period metal halide (i.e. ornamental) pedestrian type lights; and natural gas operated lights. In addition, the division is also responsible for the planning, design and budgeting of new lighting technologies (i.e. LED) in order to provide better, more efficient and cost effective systems that best serve the residents of the City.